



United States Department of Agriculture



KANSAS

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2018 SCC Spring Workshop

March 2018

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Management Team and State Office Personnel

- Karri Honaker, Acting Assistant State Conservationist–Field Operations (ASTC–FO), Hays
- Paul Larson, Acting State Conservation Engineer, Salina
- Doug Spencer, Acting State Rangeland Management Specialist, Emporia



Kansas NRCS Staffing Outlook

- Damarys Mortensen is the acting State Conservationist for up to 120 days beginning March 4, or until position is filled.
- Last fall, 4 Soil Conservation Technician positions were filled at Eureka, Oakley, Jetmore, and Iola; and a Soil Conservationist at Kingman.
- Kansas NRCS will have 4 student trainees that will be converting to full-time after graduation in May.



Kansas NRCS Staffing Outlook

- Kansas will have 5 student trainees returning this summer in the Pathways Program.
- An additional 9 Pathways positions will be advertised this spring.
- USDA is allowing NRCS to fill 150 positions nationwide this spring.



Kansas NRCS Staffing Outlook

- Of these 150 positions, Kansas will be allowed to fill 3 vacancies.
 - Kansas State Conservationist vacancy was announced Feb. 21 and closed on Feb. 27.
 - The Supervisory District Conservationist (SDC) vacancy, Atwood, was announced Feb 23 and closed March 1.
 - ASTC-FO, Hays, is scheduled to be announced in April.
- NRCS National Headquarters continues to work with the department on staffing needs



Budget Status for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018

- Kansas has full-year allocation for Mandatory Funds (Farm Bill).
- Discretionary Funds are authorized through March 23, 2018 due to continuing resolution.
- Current projections—allocated funds for Kansas will be adequate for the FY 2018.



Tri-State Leadership Development Program (TLDP)



Kansas 2018 TLDP participants



Pictured Left to Right:
William Lavergne, Wellington
Tracy Freeman, Alma
Karri Honaker, Hays
Malcolm Jones, Ottawa
Marvin Lewis, Ness City

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Emergency Conservation Program

- The largest fire in Kansas' history, the “Starbuck” fire burned roughly 509,000 acres in Meade, Clark, and Comanche counties in March 2017.



Emergency Conservation Program



Kansas NRCS created a special Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) initiative with \$2.0 million in financial assistance for those impacted by the wildfire.





Field office staff are taking advantage of real time data collection technology with the use of Esri's Collector for ArcGIS software and hardware including an Apple iPhone 6S Plus and Trimble R1 GNSS receiver.

Nola Walker, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, from Hugoton, KS, taking a point and entering data





Trimble R1 GNSS receiver unit. This connects to an iPhone 6S Plus using bluetooth





Adam Elliott and Jared Wagoner inspecting a map showing areas where fence lines needed inspection.

- A total of 8 field office staff have checked over 1,500 miles of fence
- To date, over 3.5 million feet have been completed—just short of 650 miles of fence checkouts on 200 properties





Ryan Boggs completing fence checkout.

- The average property is about 1200 acres (two sections) and has 17,000 feet of fence to look at.
- Have covered around 200,000 acres of ground—more than 300 square miles.





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Environmental Quality Incentives Program

FY 2018

Applications Received

2,064

Application Acres

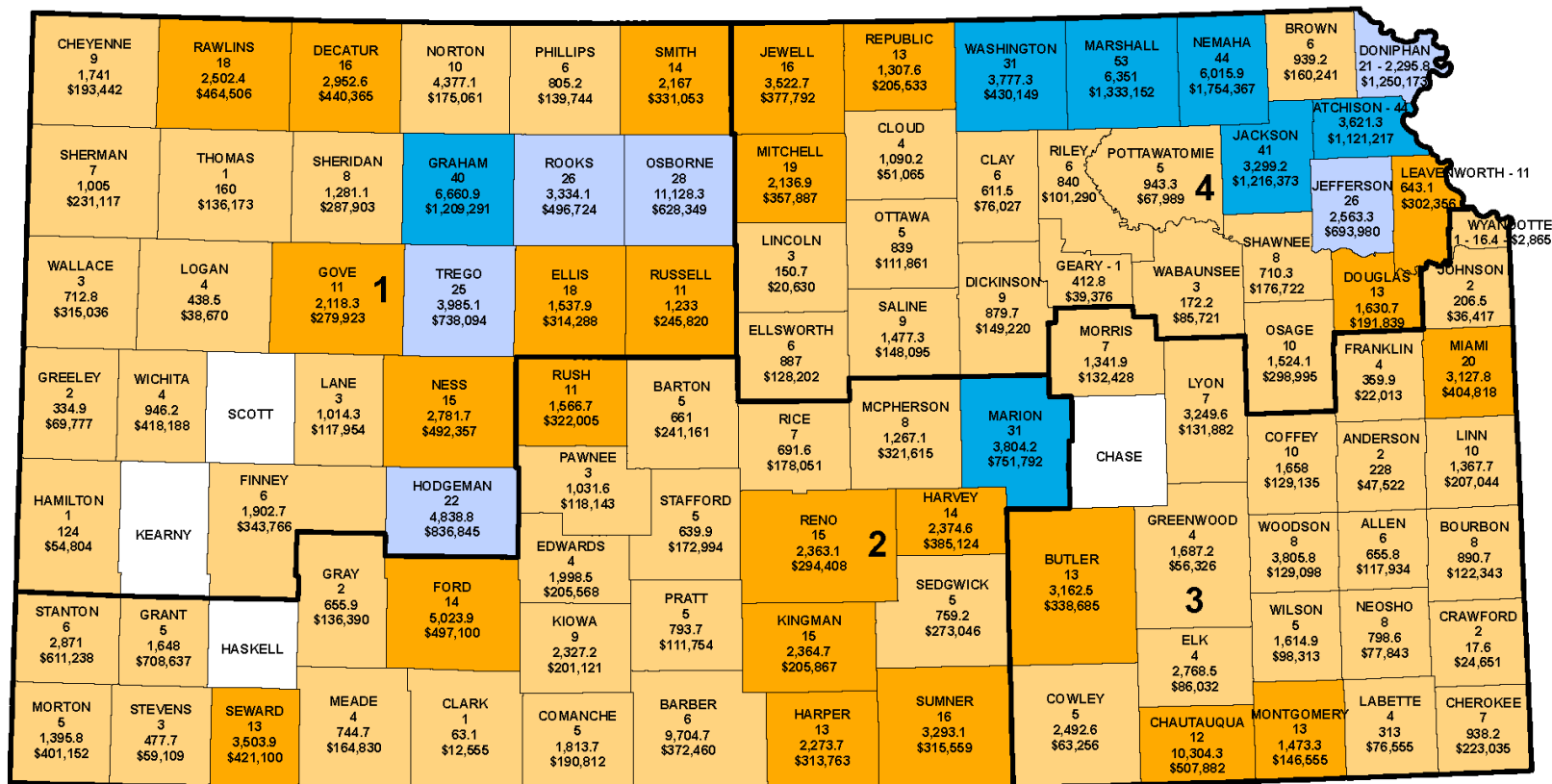
296,080



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Fiscal Year 2017 - Kansas Environmental Quality Incentives Program - General Contracts Approved

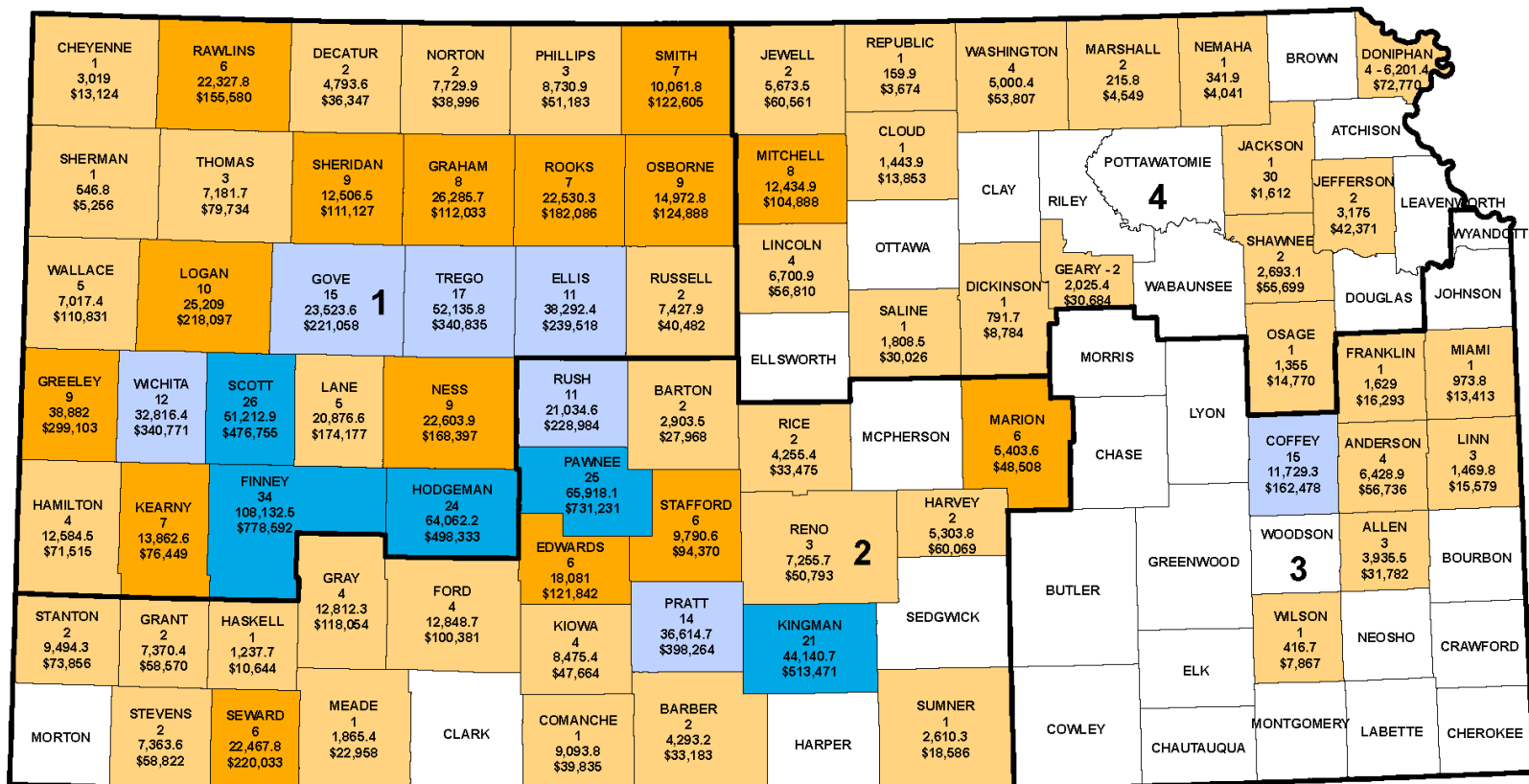


Conservation Stewardship Program

- 162 renewal contracts potentially
- \$3.6 million dollars on 277,500 acres
- 160 General Applications as of today—won't have final number until mid March
- 353,602 acre allocation



Fiscal Year 2017 - Kansas Conservation Stewardship Program Contracts Approved



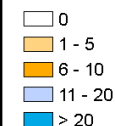
— NRCS Administrative Areas

1st No. = Number of Contracts Approved
2nd No. = Number of Acres Treated
3rd No. = Number of Dollars Obligated

Area	No. of Contracts	Acres	Dollars Obligated
1	248	659,326.5	\$5,087,872
2	128	320,634.6	\$3,111,561
3	28	26,583.0	\$ 304,148
4	37	50,051.3	\$ 558,899
Total	441	1,056,595.4	\$9,062,480



Contracts Approved



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



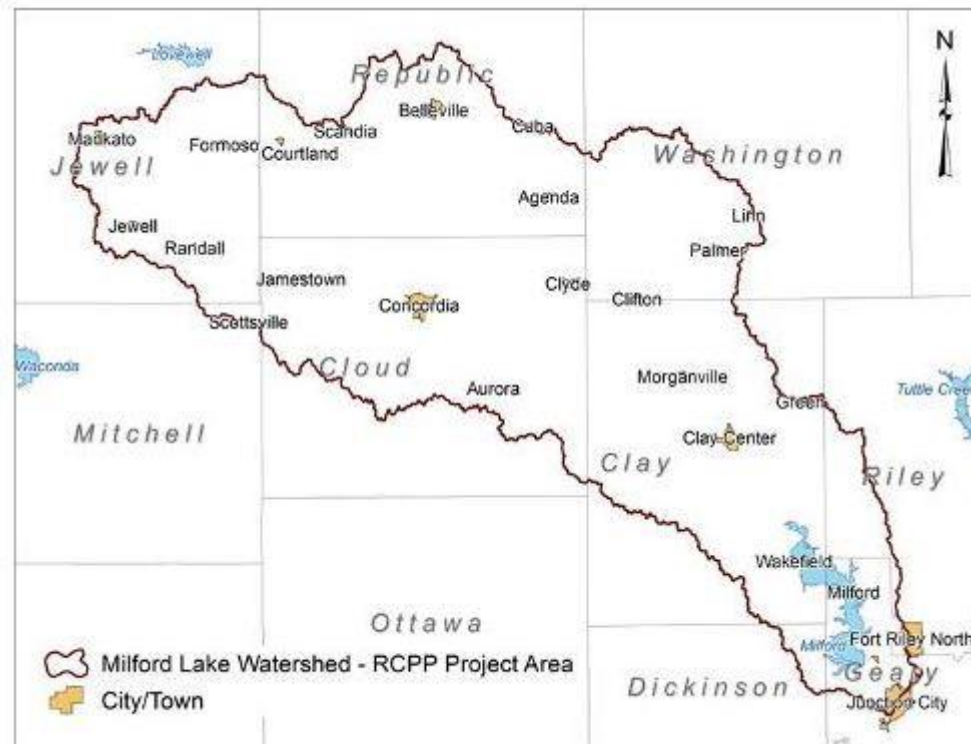
Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project

- Source of nutrient loading contributing to aquatic conditions which promote formation of harmful algal blooms (HABs)



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Milford Lake Watershed RCPP Project



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Doniphan County Road and Fields Sediment Reduction



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Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- High rainfall amounts have created erosion issues on county roads in Doniphan County



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Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- Kansas received 29 Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE) applications through February 16, FY 2018.
- The next application submittal deadline—April 6, 2018.
- In FY 2017, Kansas enrolled 23 WRE for a total of 1,737 acres—most in any one year.



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- No Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) applications were received in FY 2017 or FY 2018.



Kansas Watershed Program

- Kansas had 9 projects, totaling \$2 million in 5 watershed districts approved in FY 2017
- Funds will be used to update the work plans for the 9 projects plus designs for 2 of the projects
- Funds were obligated through project agreements with local watershed districts in February



Watershed Rehabilitation Program

- Kansas is currently working on 5 projects
- Planning has been completed on 2 sites and will be moving into design phase this spring/summer
- Planning is nearing completion on the 3 other sites

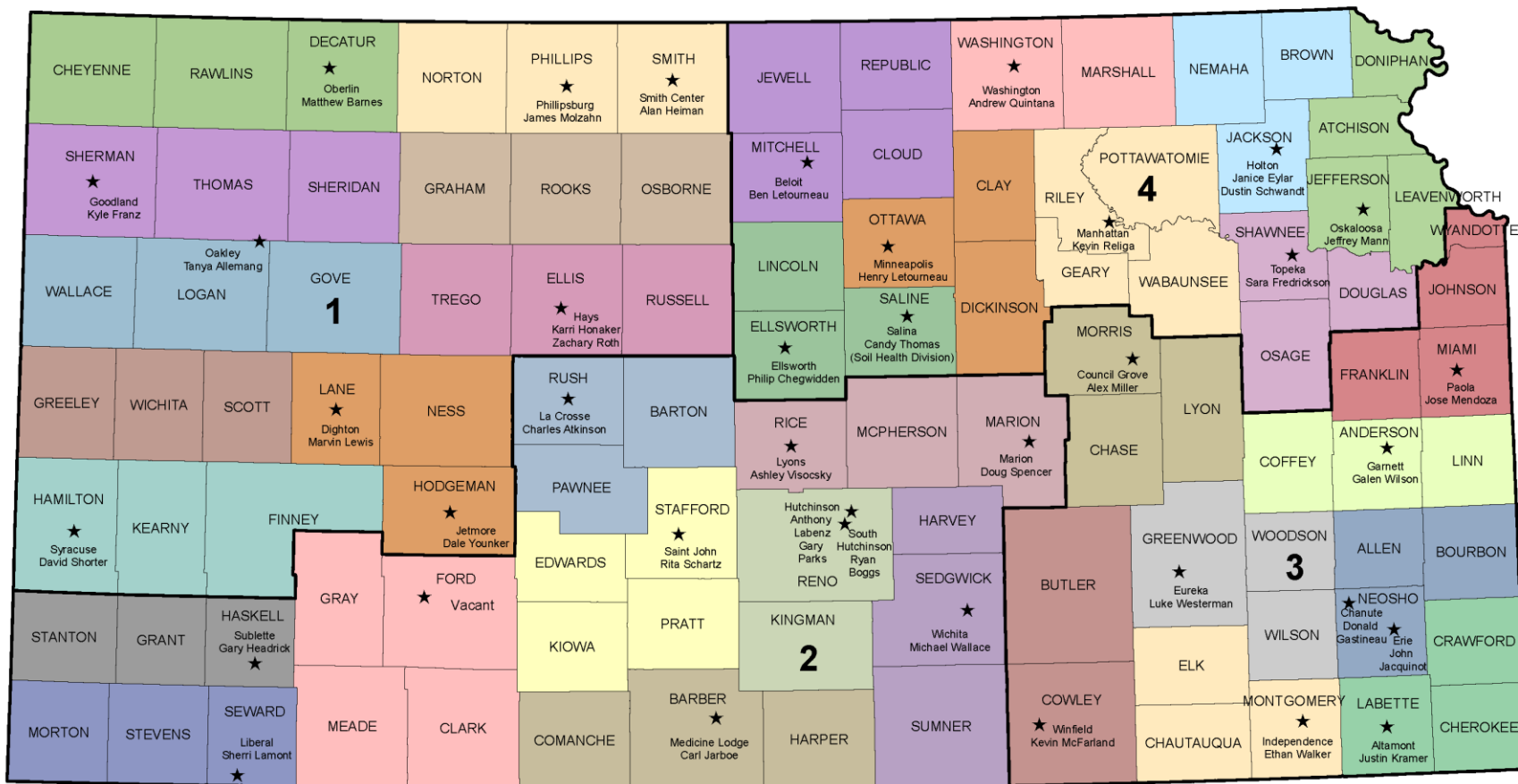


Soil Health in Kansas

In 2017, NRCS entered into 126 agreements for soil health covering 25,910 acres.



Kansas Soil Health Team



Team Leaders

Area 1
Steve Graber - Dodge City

Area 2
Jarred Kneisel - Hutchinson

Area 3
Doug Spencer - Marion

Area 4
Kris Ethridge - Manhattan

Plant Materials Center
Fred Cummings - Manhattan

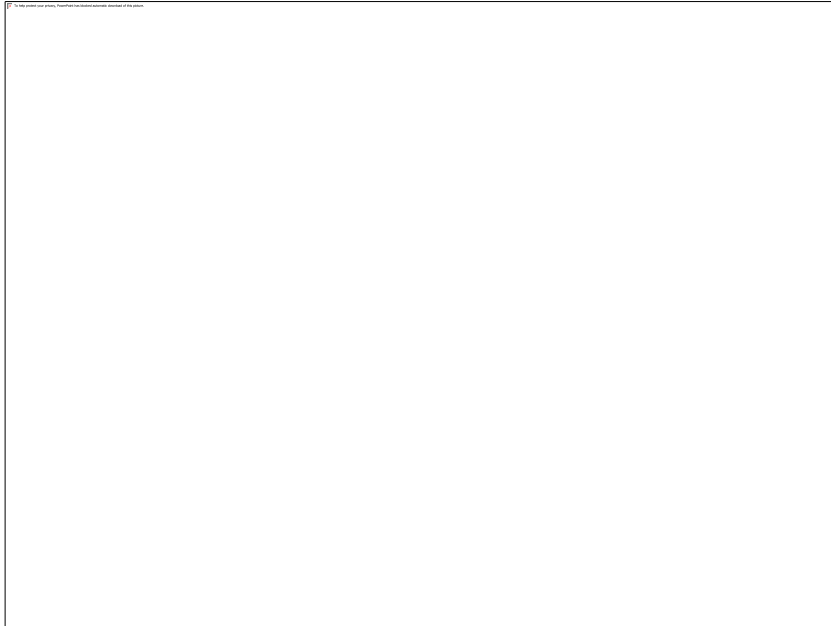
State Office
Tom Roth - Salina

NRCS Administrative Areas

Soil Health Member Office Location

Matched colored counties = Management Unit

Soil Health U





Thank You!

Questions?

Helping People Help the Land



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